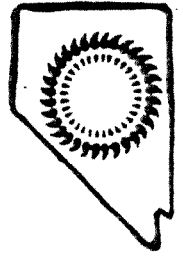


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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY



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Climatewise, October 1997 was a very nondescript month, with no significant features on the map. Precipitation was generally below normal except in the Northeast, and temperatures near normal, except in the East where they were cooler than usual. Several locations had no precipitation this month, including Aurora Mine, Lahontan Dam, Topaz Lake, Searchlight, Las Vegas A.P., Boulder Beach, Wilson Canyon, Candelaria, Kyle Canyon, and Wellington, where John Weaver also found a dry gage. The Northeast had the most with 1.87" and 6 inches of snow at Jarbidge, with .85" on the 10th. Other wet spots were Mountain City 1.51", Jarbidge 7N 1.38", Diamond Valley 1.30", Lamoille 1.25" and San Jacinto .94". San Jacinto also had some more "overcast to tee-shirt weather" with a low of 16° on the 7th and a high of 86° the same day! Nearby Charleston was colder (zero on the 25th), Reese River had 3° and San Jacinto had "only" 5 degrees. Also, Jarbidge fell to 8°, Belmont and Elko 9°, and Winnemucca and Boies Ranch 10°. Mountain City had -10° in 1970 for the State October record low. In the South some locations reached the 100° plateau (for example, Cottonwood Cove 104°, Echo Bay 101° and Overton 99°) with the 109° at Cottonwood Cove in October 1990 still the State record high.

Wind speeds averaged near normal, with below normal evaporation (for example, Overton 8.01, Shoshone 4.42", Minden 2.91" and UNR 2.70").

NOTE: Several persons have inquired about Nevada's oldest climate stations. The winners in that category are Fort Churchill, Camp Halleck, and Fort McDermitt. Many of the early climate records in the Western U.S. come from Army Camps. Records began at Fort Churchill in late 1860 and continued sporadically into 1869 when the Fort was abandoned. Two very wet months were noted, as 4.05" fell in December 1861 and 4.84" in January 1862. This 8.89" two-month total was about twice the annual average, and undoubtedly caused floods in Western Nevada to match those that devastated Northern and Central California that winter.

The Camp Halleck record began in late 1862, continuing until 1886. December 1869 brought 7.62", not too much below the average annual total.

The McDermitt area has the distinction of having the longest climatic record in Nevada, as first precipitation readings were made in 1866, and except for a few missing periods have been recorded for 131 years.

NOTE 2: In the United States the earliest weather diary was kept by the Chaplain of the Swedish colonization force in what is now Wilmington, Delaware in 1644-45. Weather diaries were the main source of weather information in our country through the War of 1812. Weather diaries were kept by several well known Americans, including Benjamin Franklin and Presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, -- the latter the most active with data from early July 1776 to near his death on July 4, 1826. (The State Climatologist, Spring 1997).

John W. James
State Climatologist

Rey Nystrom has been the official weather observer in Jarbidge near the Idaho border for the past several years. He and his wife Marguerite moved to Jarbidge from their almond ranch in Northern California eleven years ago. They love the remoteness of the Jarbidge Area, even though the nearest Super Market is 100 miles away in Twin Falls, Idaho. Of course, as owners of the Trading Post Store in Jarbidge, they keep a good stock of most of the staples. Rey and Marguerite have two sons, one in Idaho and the other in Northern California.

Rey first visited Jarbidge as a deer hunter in 1955, and remembers the floods of Spring of 1995 as the outstanding weather feature of the past several years.

Many thanks for being a great weather observer, with a "batting average" of 1000!

